

Amendments to the specification:

Amend the title of the invention to read:

---METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STRIPPING SULFUR-CONTAINING COMPOUNDS FROM HYDROCARBON FEED STOCK IN HYDROREFINING OF PETROLEUM DISTILLATES---.

Amend the paragraph starting in the 9th line on page 17 as follows:

Of the extracted vapor component, the hydrogen component comprising hydrogen sulfide, etc., is removed from peak over head 55 of high-pressure separation cell 53 and sent to hydrogen recycling unit 21 via flow meter 56 and flow adjustment valve 57. Stripping in valve tray 35 can be adjusted by adjusting the quantity of flow of this hydrogen component. Flow adjustment valve 57 is controlled in accordance with the indication on flow meter 56 so that quantity of flow is brought to the quantity of flow with which ~~the~~ adequate stripping is possible.

Amend the paragraph starting in the 19th line on page 17 as follows:

The hydrogen component comprising hydrogen sulfide, etc., is sent from peak over head 55 of high-pressure separation cell 53, or from peak over head 63 of high-pressure separation peak cell 61, to hydrogen recycling unit 21. Hydrogen from which impurities such as hydrogen sulfide, etc., have been removed

by hydrogen recycling unit 21 is pressurized by compressor 22 as recycled hydrogen. Some of the pressurized recycled hydrogen is mixed with make-up hydrogen 23 obtained by the hydrogen production process ~~that is not illustrated (not shown)~~ and sent from hydrogen nozzle 40 to bottom space 36. This hydrogen is used for stripping in valve tray 35 and hydrorefining at second catalyst layer 38.

Amend the paragraph starting in the 5th line on page 18 as follows:

The remainder ~~rest~~ of the pressurized recycled hydrogen becomes hydrogen gas 20 that has been preheated by heat exchanger 51 and is mixed with preheated oil 10 and used for hydrorefining at first catalyst layer 33.